



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR INFORMATION CALL**  
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## **Lantos Insists on House Vote for Democratic Medicare Drug Bill**

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today joined a new Democratic effort to force a vote on legislation that will bring down drug prices for seniors and the disabled.

Lantos signed onto a discharge petition that would bring the proposal, the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2004 (H.R. 3767), immediately to the House floor. The bill has been bottled up in two committees since February, delaying an opportunity for a swift and much-needed correction to the lopsided Medicare legislation that Congress passed late last year.

“Republicans are keeping an important bill from House consideration because they know that it will show what an obstacle their awful Medicare package is to making prescription drugs affordable,” Lantos said. “The Democrats’ bill would let the government negotiate lower drug prices, just as private health insurance companies do.”

Lantos noted that, according to the lead story in today’s *New York Times*, Department of Health and Human Services research suggests that employers will reduce or eliminate prescription drug benefits for 3.8 million retirees starting in 2006, when Medicare offers such coverage, possibly forcing them to rely entirely on a Medicare drug benefit that provides less coverage for the medicine they need.

“The new Medicare law leaves seniors and people with disabilities with a huge gap in coverage,” Lantos said. “The new drug cards authorized by the law have failed to provide significant discounts. We need a real Medicare drug benefit, and the legislation to create that deserves the full attention and consideration of Congress.”

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